



First 5 California

Overview of RFA2: Readiness
Assessment and Quality Improvement

March 13, 2012



Child Signature Program

Child Signature Program

RFA1 FY 2012-15

For Current PoP Counties

Application Release (February 17, 2012):

Quality Enhancement of PoP

- Designed to enhance the quality of PoP in the existing eight PoP counties for three years. This RFA requires matching funds from counties.

RFA2 FY 2012-15

For All 58 Counties

Application Release (March 2012):

Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement

- Supports assessments to determine strengths and challenges of identified county centers and classrooms.
- Designed to provide targeted training and quality improvement support in all 58 counties for local centers and classrooms not yet participating in PoP.
- This RFA does not require matching funds from counties.

RFA3 FY 2013-15

For Potential Quality Enhancement of PoP Counties

Application Release (February 2013):

- Designed to enhance the quality of PoP in qualifying non-PoP counties for two years. This RFA requires matching funds from counties.

TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT

Access to Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4):

Designed as a Learning and Improvement Academy to provide specific training and assistance to facilitate quality improvements in identified early learning centers across all counties.

Preview of CSP: Structure and Timeline

2012-2013

2013-2014

2014-2015

RFA 1

Current PoP
Counties

Add New CSP Sites

Support for all CSP Sites

RFA 2

Current PoP & Non
PoP Counties

CSP Promise sites continue improvement plans

RFA 3

New counties with sites that meet/exceed CSP
Baseline Criteria apply for Quality Enhancement of
PoP 2013.

Early Education Effectiveness Exchange

- Readiness Assessment and Planning Support
- Training, TA and Improvement
- Policy and Promotion

Evaluation

- Local Evaluation
- Statewide Evaluation

RFA 2: Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement

RFA 2 Primary Objective:

- The main objective of RFA2 is to support participating sites to meet CSP Baseline Criteria and to prepare to further enhance quality

RFA 2 is:

- Open to all 58 counties
- Provides assistance to counties to assess non-PoP centers and classrooms in readiness assessment content areas
- Provides assistance to fund an **Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS)** to coordinate and support readiness assessment and quality improvement activities



Early Learning Systems Specialist

The Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS)

- Supports the completion of the readiness assessment
- Helps develop county-wide and individual center and/or classroom improvement plans
- Supports centers and classrooms with improvement activities, technical assistance, and training in preparation for the next CSP release



Early Education Effectiveness Exchange E4



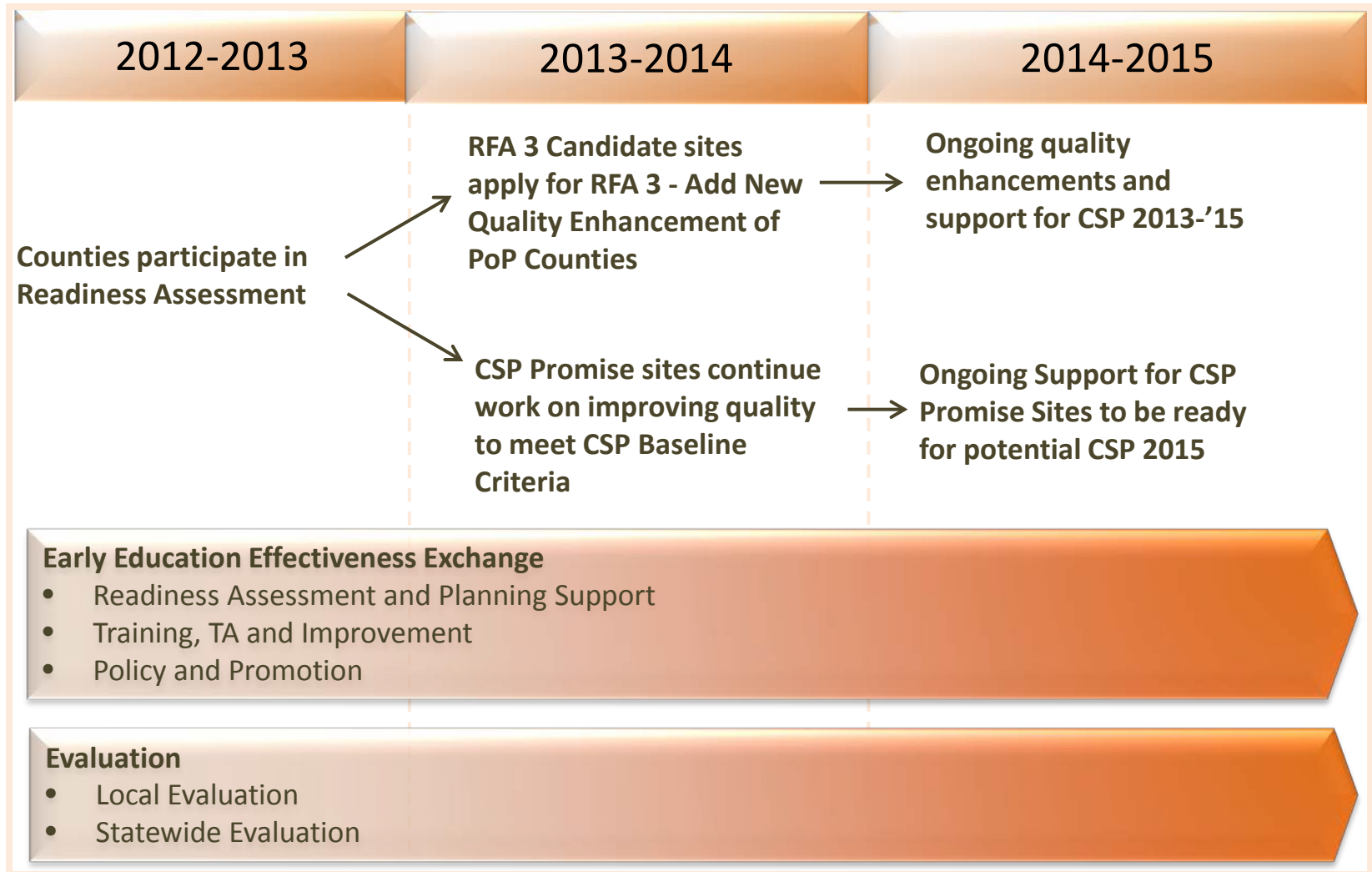
- Provides training, technical assistance, shared learning and improvement activities for RFA 1, RFA 2, and RFA 3 participants
- Conducts at least one annual in-person meeting for essential staff
- Provides readiness assessment support and planning for Quality Enhancement of PoP **AND** critical resources and knowledge exchange for all
- Supports Policy and Promotion
 - Collaborates with EDs and Commissions Chairs to develop strategies for sustaining high quality ECE programs

How Does RFA 2 Fit with RFA 1 and E4?

- CSP is creating the next generation of PoP - moving toward higher quality
- Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4) works with ELSS to identify and address areas for quality improvement
- E4 is the vehicle for providing the training, technical assistance and support to make those improvements



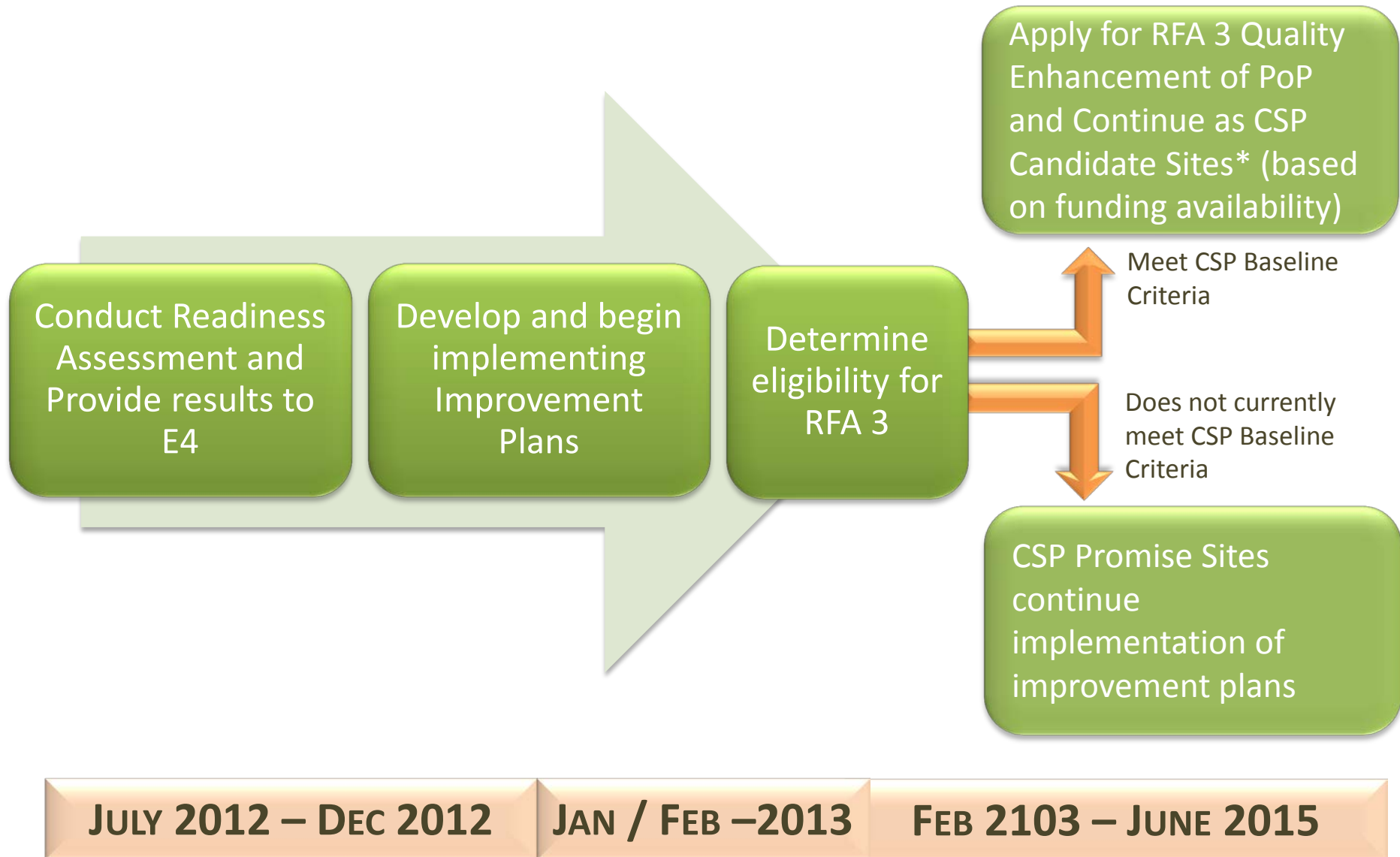
How Does RFA 2 Fit with RFA 3?



Preparing for the Readiness Assessment

- County Prepares for Readiness Assessment
 - Identify centers & classrooms to participate in readiness assessment
 - Hire qualified ELSS to work with center(s) & classrooms to conduct readiness assessment
 - Partner with centers, local education agencies, or other community partners to:
 - Establish relationships with centers & classrooms
 - Assist with gathering information on quality for these non-PoP centers & classrooms

Phases of the Readiness Assessment & Quality Improvement



Readiness Assessment

- Conduct readiness assessment: **Fall 2012**
 - Receive T/TA through participation in Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4) in order to complete the readiness assessment
 - Readiness assessment content areas include:
 - CSP Baseline Criteria
 - Leadership and Governance
 - Infrastructure
 - Classroom instruction
 - Social emotional development
 - Parent involvement and support
 - Infants/Toddlers
- Provide results to E4: **Dec 2012**



How Do You Know You're Ready for RFA3?

Classroom(s) meet CSP Baseline Criteria

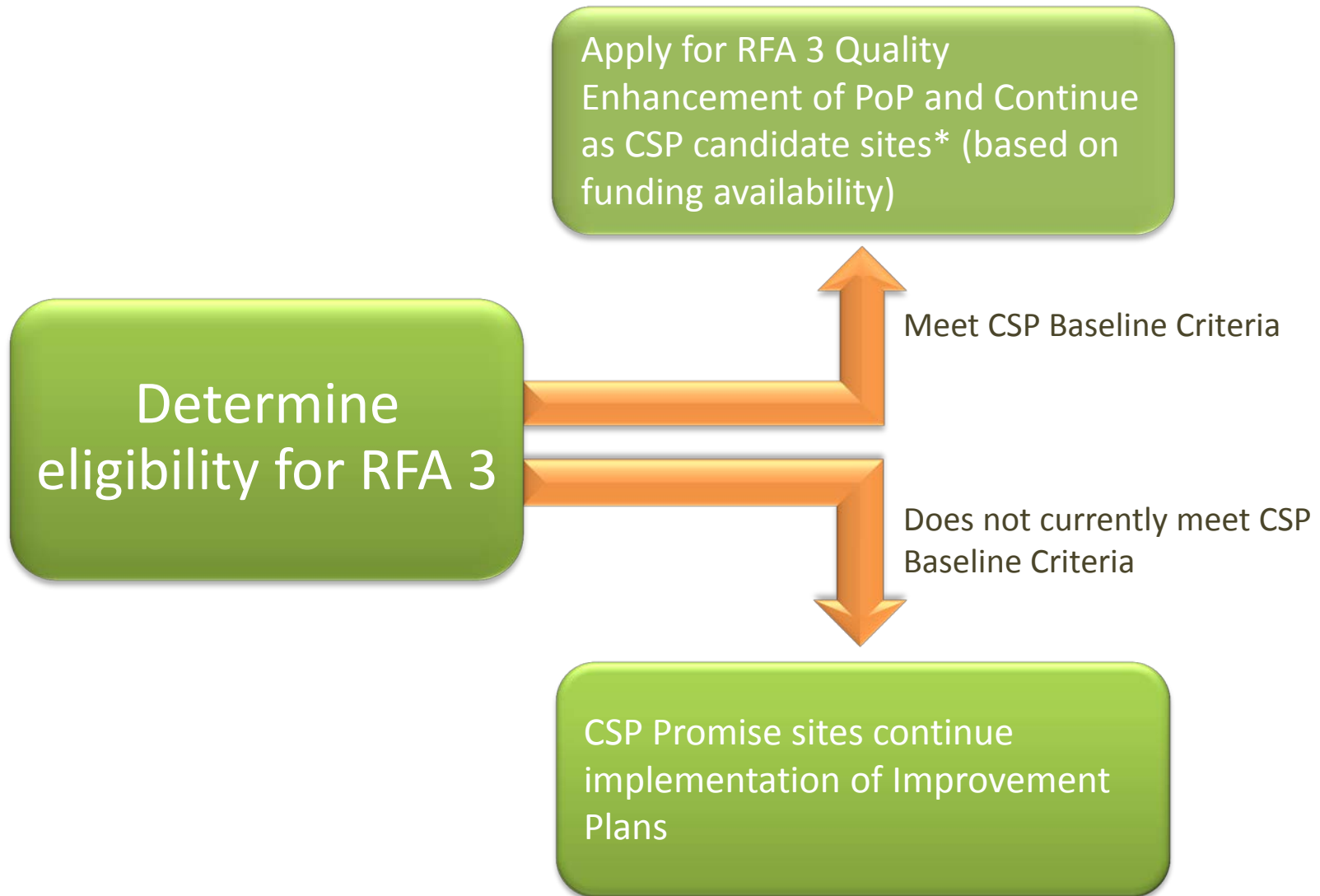
CSP Baseline Criteria: Required Areas

Target Population	Maximum Group size	Environmental Rating Scales revised: ECERS-F and ITERS
Diversity	Health Education	Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
Age	Food	DRDP 2010
Parent Fees	Nutrition Education	Principles on Equity
Screening	Tobacco Education	Evaluation
Length of Day	Physical Activity	Budget
Curriculum	Transition Support	Families
Articulation	Teacher/Provider Qualifications	Connections
Teacher/Provider: Child Ratio	Additional Teacher/Provider Requirement	

Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs)

- Develop and begin implementing QIPs January 2013
- Update on a quarterly basis
- Monitor for achievement & progress toward objectives
- Support for county development and implementation of county/center/classroom QIPs provided by ELSS and E4

Key Benchmark: Winter 2012



Expectations: Monitoring Progress & Goals

- All centers and classrooms must participate in core quality improvement trainings available through the ELSS and/or the E4 (targeted)
- Quality Improvement Plans will outline **reasonable objectives** and activities that each center and/or classroom will participate in to move up the improvement ladder

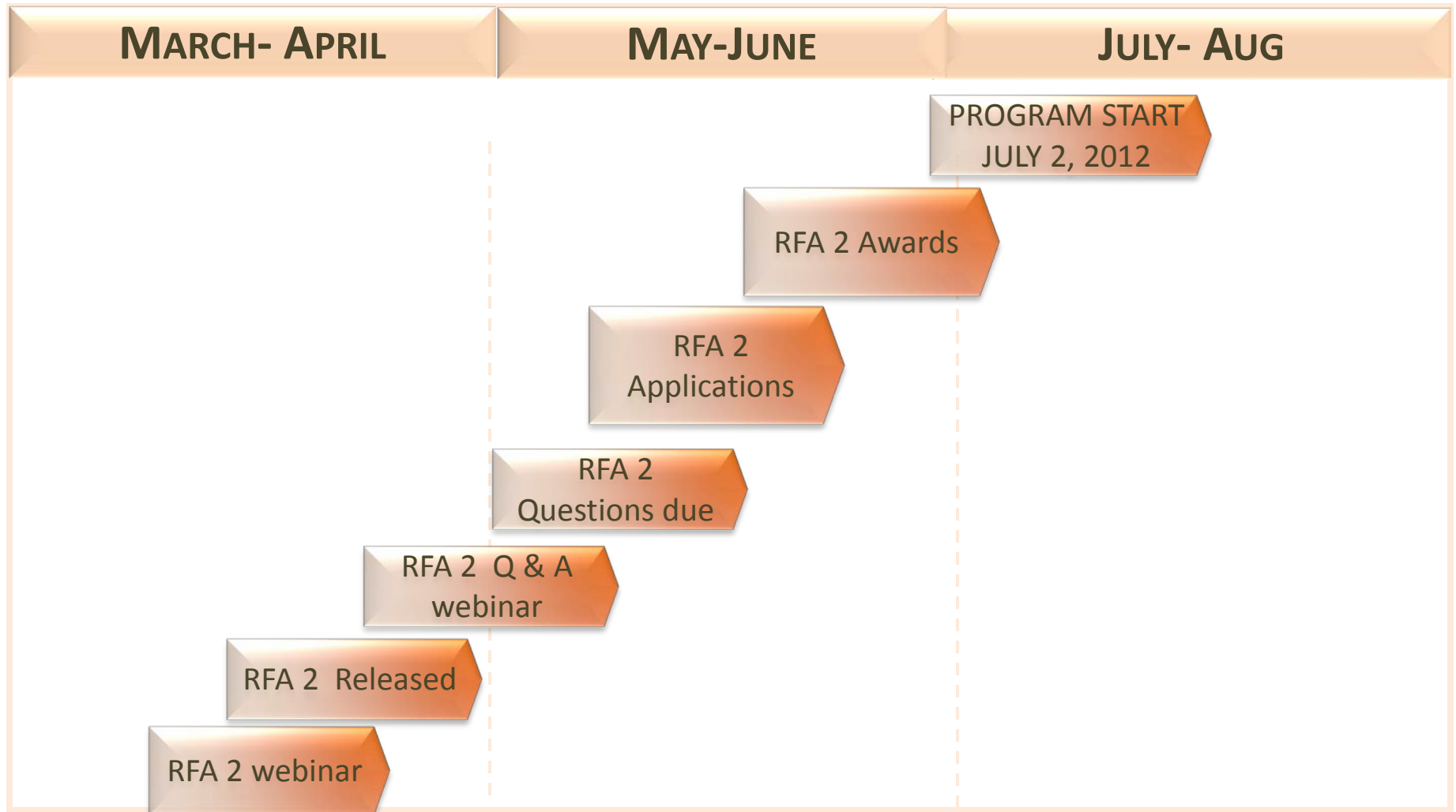


What Does RFA 2 Fund?

- Tiered funding to support an Early Learning System Specialist
 - Funding can be used to
 - Support completion of readiness assessment
 - Support county development and implementation of improvement plans
 - Travel costs for the ELSS (e.g. attendance at the required annual meeting)
- Opportunity for key staff to participate in the Early Education Effectiveness Exchange to facilitate completion of the Readiness Assessment
- Support for improvement, achieving CSP Baseline Criteria, and preparing to further enhance quality



Next Steps Timeline FY 2012-'13



Questions for Counties

- What are your thoughts about the minimum number of classrooms, or other criteria that would justify a full-time ELSS?
- Please share your thoughts about how best to meet the varied T and T/A needs of centers and classrooms.

Questions?





First 5 California

Working in Small Counties on RFA2:
Readiness Assessment and Quality
Improvement

March 13, 2012



Initial Considerations for Small Counties

- Examples of cross-county collaboration in First 5 California funded programs
- If you have only a small number of classrooms, would you consider coordinating with (an)other county(ies) on a single application?
- Do you have a county(ies) in mind for that kind of collaboration?
- Does the number of classrooms appropriate for the CSP influence how you would implement other features of the CSP?